

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A screening method for a candidate antidiabetic substance, said method comprising the steps of:

bringing a candidate substance to be screened into contact with a target protein comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2 which is capable of interacting with ~~a thiazolidine derivative selected from the group consisting of pioglitazone, rosiglitazone, troglitazone or ciglitazone~~, wherein said candidate substance is a substance that has not yet been determined to be an antidiabetic;

screening for the presence or absence of any interaction between the candidate antidiabetic substance and the target protein; and

determining that the candidate antidiabetic substance has a pharmacological action similar to that of ~~the thiazolidine derivative~~ said pioglitazone.

24-25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) The screening method according to claim 23, wherein said candidate substance is a low molecular weight compound.

27. (Previously Presented) The screening method according to claim 23, wherein said candidate substance is a protein.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) The screening method according to claim 23, wherein said protein is immobilized on a substrate and said candidate substance is brought into contact with said immobilized protein in order to measure the capability of said candidate substance to interact with said protein.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) The screening method according to claim 29, wherein said substrate is a chip.

32-34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) The screening method according to ~~claim 33~~, claim 23, wherein said screening is performed by surface plasmon resonance.

36-44. (Canceled)